

## Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 221430Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3704

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0043

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PINT,PGOV,SF

SUBJ :NATIONALIST PRESS COMMENTS ON HOMELANDS LEADERS

INITIATIVE ON FEDERATION

REF :CAPE TOWN 0035

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH SAG ITSELF HAS MADE NO COMMENT ON  
REMARKS BY BUTHELEZI AND OTHER HOMELANDS LEADERS CONCERNING  
A FEDERATED SOUTH AFRICA(REFTEL), EDITORIALS IN AFRIKAANS  
PRESS INDICATE AFRIKANER ESTABLISHMENT NOT RPT NOT DISMISSING

OUT OF HAND THIS LATEST FOCUS ON FEDERATION.END SUMMARY.

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1. SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION SUNDAY PAPER,RAPPORT,

STATED JANUARY 20,'CLEARLY THIS IS THE TIME OF FEDERATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA... THIS CAN BE SEEN FROM,AMONG OTHER THINGS,THE GREAT INTEREST CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI'S LECTURE AROUSED IN CAPE TOWN THIS WEEK. HERE IS A PLAN,POSSIBLY WITH AS MANY FAULTS AS VIRTUES, BUT A PLAN WHICH CAN BE DISCUSSED AND FROM WHICH NEW IDEAS AND CONCEPTS CAN BE BORN' RAPPORT NOTED THAT BUTHELEZI'S STARTING POINT IS PRECISELY THE POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED SO OVERWHELMINGLY BY WHITE SOUTH AFRICA'. THE PAPER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE 'TAKING OVER A CONCEPT (FEDERATION) WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE NATIONALIST POLICY.'

2. DIE BURGER,THE VOICE OF CAPE NATIONAL PARTY AND LIKE RAPPORT RELATIVELY LIBERAL(IN NATIONALIST CONTEXT) ON SOME ISSUES,PRAISED INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS CONGRESS, AT WHICH BUTHELEZI SPOKE. THROUGH ITS POLITICAL COLUMNIST 'DAWIE' DIE BURGER SAID POINTS HAD BEEN RAISED WHICH 'GIVE ONE NEW COURAGE AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. IT LAUDED BUTHELEZI AND CHIEF LUCAS MANGOPE FOR THEIR 'APPROACH TO THE HOMELANDS IDEA.'

3. PERHAPS OF MORE SIGNIFICANCE ARE COMMENTS OF DIE VADERLAND, IN VIEW OF FACT IT MORE ACCURATELY REPRESENTS MAINSTREAM OF CONSERVATIVE AFRIKANER OPINION. IN JANUARY 17 EDITORIAL, DIE VADERLAND SAID IT ENCOURAGED THAT BUTHELEZI,WHO'HAS OFTEN GIVEN US REASON IN THE PAST TO CRITIZE HIM SHARPLY,' ABLE TO PRESENT 'A WELL-THOUGHT OUT TALK WITH DEEPER INSIGHT.' ALTHOUGH DISAGREEING WITH 'MANY OF HIS DETAILS,' DIE VADERLAND SAID:'IT IS,HOWEVER,OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE THAT IT IS PRECISELY THE FAVORITE OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY, AND TO A LARGE EXTENT OF THE UP, WHO PRESENTS SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND THE HOMELAND POLICY AS AN IDEAL FOUNDATION FOR A FEDERATION OR COMMONWEALTH. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF FEDERATION. AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMMONWEALTH WAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED BY DR.H.F.VERWOERD. A CARDINAL CONDITION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH EACH OTHER ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY. AND THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOMELANDS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.'

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4. COMMENT: NOT UNEXPECTEDLY,NATIONALIST PRESS IS EMPHASIZING HOMELANDS LEADERS' WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITHIN SYSTEM OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. (THIS, INCIDENTALLY, WILL PROBABLY ESTRANGE BUTHELEZI AND OTHERS EVEN FURTHER FROM MORE MILITANT BLACKS, SUCH AS SASO MEMBERS.) NONETHELESS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT NAT NEWSPAPERS HAVE, ALONE WITH OPPOSITION, ENDORSED FEDERATION IDEA AS A POSSIBLE AVENUE TOWARD RACIAL

HARMONY. AS WE NOTED IN REFTTEL, WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT  
SAG WILL CHOOSE TO EXPLOIT THIS OPENING WILL NOT BE REVEALED  
UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER ELECTIONS. REACTION THUS FAR OF  
AFRIKANER PRESS, THOUGH, INDICATES NATIONALIST LEADERSHIP  
WILL HAVE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSALS OF THE  
SORT BUTHELEZI AND MANGOPE HAVE MADE.

GAMON

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